

**The Heist**

**The Heist**

**The radio was abuzz with the account of how three gunmen had held up the guests at the Countess Swellington’s ball and relieved them of their jewels and then started off, only to be shot down by a dainty figure who grabbed the laundry basket into which the jewelry had been stuffed and made off into the night.**

**Officer Shev Dingle, of Shaerifftown, came upon the scene at dawn. The car was identified as belonging to one of the Countess Swellington’s guests, and the body was identified as that of the notorious jewel thief Althea von Ayliss de Greef, and here she is – or rather, a part of her.**

**The collection of jewelry was not found, but the main question, of course, was who done her in.**

1. **Was the robbery the motive for killing her?**
2. **Did the robber get the loot?**
3. **Did Althea expect trouble when she stepped out of the car?**
4. **Was the killer in a hurry?**
5. **Did the killer have another car?**
6. **Did he kill Althea without warning?**
7. **Why did she stop – To pick up a hitchhiker, because she had a flat tire, by prearrangement with a confederate?**
8. **Who killed her?**

**Boudoir**

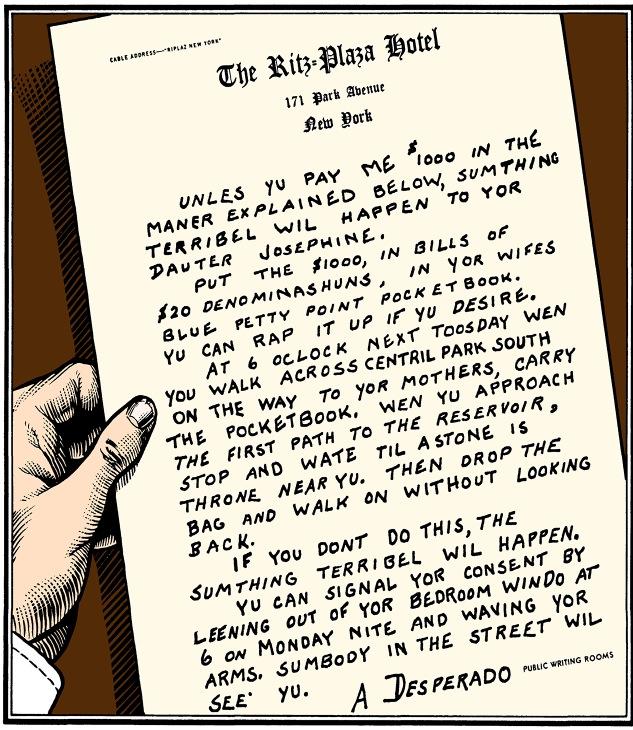


**Boudoir**

**Amy LaTour’s body was found in her bedroom last night, as shown, with her pet canary strangled in its cage. Henry Willy and Joe Wonty, her boyfriends; Louis Spanker, a burglar known to have been in the vicinity; and Celeste, her maid, were questioned by the police.** **Can you solve the case?**

1. **How was Amy apparently killed?**
2. **Is there evidence of a violent struggle?**
3. **Is her murderer strong?**
4. **Does Amy like jewelry?**
5. **Was she robbed?**
6. **Do you think she had been on friendly terms with the killer?**
7. **Was the canary strangled before Amy’s death?**
8. **Was this a crime of passion?**
9. **Did Willy have a motive?**
10. **Who killed Amy?**

Extortion



**Extortion**

**Pictured here is a kidnapping threat which was mailed to Iver Nutmeg, wealthy gumshoe manufacturer.**

**From this information and an examination of the paper, can you discover who sent the extortion letter?**

1. **Did the writer know Nutmeg’s address?**

1. **Did the writer misspell because he was unfamiliar with English?**
2. **Do you think the writer misspelled intentionally?**
3. **Do you think the writer used print as a disguise to his handwriting?**
4. **Would you say the writer was probably a shabbily dressed person?**
5. **Do you think the writer was a professional gangster?**
6. **Did the writer know Nutmeg by sight?**
7. **Was the writer familiar with Nutmeg’s habits?**
8. **Was the writer familiar with Nutmeg’s apartment?**
9. **Do you think the writer was a man?**
10. **Who wrote the extortion letter - A gangster, an elevator boy, a discharged English Governess, a discharged office clerk, a waitress from the restaurant where Nutmeg eats lunch, a discharged Irish chambermaid?**

**The Heist**

**1.** **Was the robbery the motive for killing her?** *Yes, because the laundry basket which we know contained the jewels was dumped out and the jewels were taken, except for the single piece which was apparently overlooked and left on the running board.*

**2.** **Did the robber get the loot?** *Yes, as explained in Answer 1.*

**3.** **Did Althea expect trouble when she stepped out of the car?** *No, because she left her gun in the door pocket rather than taking it with her.*

**4.** **Was the killer in a hurry?** *Yes, because he overlooked a piece of jewelry and left the car doors open.*

**5.** **Did the killer have another car?** *Yes, he must have. Otherwise he would have driven off in this car.*

**6.** **Did he kill Althea without warning?** *Yes. She left her gun in the car, and there is no indication of a struggle.*

**7.** **Why did she stop – To pick up a hitchhiker, because she had a flat tire, by prearrangement with a confederate?** *By prearrangement with a confederate. With a fortune in jewels lying in an open laundry basket, she would never have stopped for an unknown hitchhiker. If she’d had a flat tire, she would have pulled over to the side of the road, instead of leaving the car right in the center of the road. It follows that she stopped because she was meeting someone, obviously a confederate.*

**8.** **Who killed her?** *The confederate. He had every reason for dissociating himself from Althea, whom the police were looking for. He therefore must have slashed the tire to make it look as if she’d stopped to fix it and then been killed by an unknown person. He was arrested that same day. His mistake was in choosing the jewels rather than Althea, when he might have had both.*

**Boudoir**

1. **How was Amy apparently killed?** *Strangled, with the kerchief which is still around her neck.*
2. **Is there evidence of a violent struggle?** *No. All objects are apparently in place.*
3. **Is her murderer strong?** *Yes, strong enough to overpower and strangle her, and to bend the bars of the bird cage.*
4. **Does Amy like jewelry?** *Yes. She is wearing a bracelet, and her jewel box is overflowing with jewelry.*
5. **Was she robbed?** *No, because her jewelry is left in its box, and there is no indication of a search for valuables.*
6. **Do you think she had been on friendly terms with the killer?** *Yes, because there is no sign of a struggle, and she was apparently still brushing her hair when attacked.*
7. **Was the canary strangled before Amy’s death?** *No. If the bird had been strangled while she was still alive, she would have objected forcibly and not simply have sat there brushing her hair.*
8. **Was this a crime of passion?** *Yes. The killer was angered enough to strangle both Amy and her bird.*
9. **Did Willy have a motive?** *Yes. It was jealousy, aroused by the sight of Joe’s pictures and his gifts.*
10. **Who killed Amy?** *Henry Willy, because Spanker would have stolen, Wonty seems to have been in good favor, and the maid had no reason to kill and probably lacked the strength to strangle Amy and break the bars of the cage.*

**Extortion**

1. **Did the writer know Nutmeg’s address?** *Yes, because the letter was mailed to him.*
2. **Did the writer misspell because he was unfamiliar with English?** *No. because there are no foreign mannerisms or letter combinations. The threat is written in colloquial but fluent English.*
3. **Do you think the writer misspelled intentionally?** *Yes, because he forgot himself twice and spelled “you” correctly; because the misspelling is overdone, with difficult words such as “Josephine,” “pocketbook,” and “desperado” spelled correctly; and because paragraphing and punctuation are correct throughout.*
4. **Do you think the writer used print as a disguise to his handwriting?** *Yes, because it is not the letter of a person unable to write in longhand, as has been brought out in Answer 3.*
5. **Would you say the writer was probably a shabbily dressed person?** No, because he was apparently able to enter the public writing rooms of the Ritz-Plaza hotel.
6. **Do you think the writer was a professional gangster?** *No, because the tone of the letter is amateurish (see, for example, the signature), and because the amount demanded is extremely small.*
7. **Did the writer know Nutmeg by sight?** *Yes, because no means are provided for Nutmeg’s identification.*
8. **Was the writer familiar with Nutmeg’s habits?** *Yes, because he apparently knew Nutmeg’s habit of walking to his mother’s on Tuesdays.*
9. **Was the writer familiar with Nutmeg’s apartment?** Yes, because he evidently knew the floor and frontage of Nutmeg’s bedroom.
10. **Do you think the writer was a man?** *No, because the writer specified a particular petit-point pocketbook but did not demand that it be wrapped. Had the writer been a man, he would have insisted on having the pocketbook wrapped up lest it make him conspicuous at a time when he did not want to be noticed.*
11. **Who wrote the extortion letter - A gangster, an elevator boy, a discharged English Governess, a discharged office clerk, a waitress from the restaurant where Nutmeg eats lunch, a discharged Irish chambermaid?** *A discharged governess, because it was a woman familiar with Nutmeg’s apartment, his habits, and his wife’s pocketbook, and a woman who found it necessary to pretend a lack of education. It is not the Irish chambermaid because she would probably not have used the word “denominations,” and it is not the waitress because she would not be familiar with the apartment, Nutmeg’s habits, or the pocketbook.*